



U.S. Senator Ken Salazar  
U.S. Senator Wayne Allard



**For Immediate Release  
July 20, 2005**

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## **SENS. ALLARD & SALAZAR PROPOSE FUNDING FIX TO STALLED PUEBLO DEPOT CONSTRUCTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A technical problem with the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Defense budget that could have stalled progress at the Pueblo Chemical Depot for another year has been corrected by a bipartisan amendment. Cosponsored by Senators Ken Salazar (D-CO), Wayne Allard (R-CO), John Warner (R-VA), Carl Levin (D-MI), Jim Bunning (R-KY) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY) the amendment specifically addressed the problem, ensuring that \$51 million dollars will be available to be spent in FY2006 for construction, planning, and design work at both the Pueblo Chemical Depot and at the Bluegrass, Kentucky Chemical Depot site. Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the chemical weapons stored at these sites must be destroyed by 2012.

“We need to start construction at the depot as quickly as possible,” Senator Allard said. “This technical change was needed so that we can get the ball the rolling as fast as possible. This will give the managers of the program greater flexibility so they can better utilize their resources to reach our goal of safely destroying these weapons and meeting the 2012 treaty deadline.”

Senator Salazar stated, “This amendment is an essential step forward for the destruction of the tons of chemical weapons still stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. I hope this is another indication that the Pentagon recognizes the urgency this situation demands – an urgency the people of Pueblo and all of Colorado are right to expect.”

Without the amendment from the six senators, the Department of Defense would not have been able to spend funds under the appropriate accounts. Their fix, which moves money from the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget to the Military Construction (MILCON) budget for chemical weapons destruction, will be in effect for one year, with the expectation that the FY2007 budget will not have the same problem.

While the bipartisan Pueblo amendment was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate, the Defense Authorization Bill still needs to be passed on the Senate floor, passed in conference, and passed by both houses of Congress before it becomes law.

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